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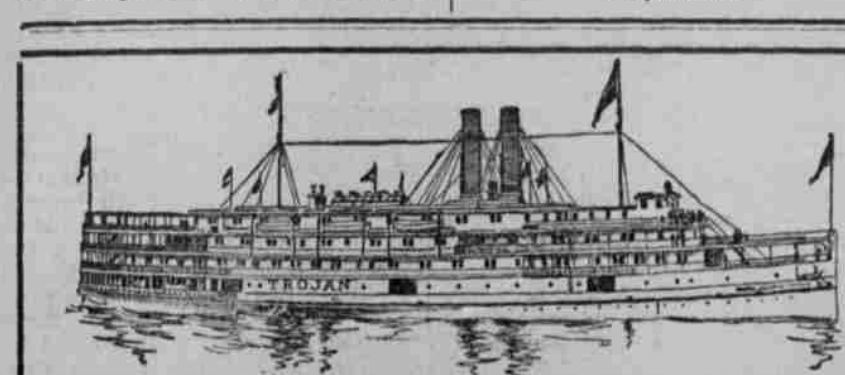
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Entered at the Post-office, Bennington, Vt., Dec. 11, 1902, as second class mail matter.

FRANK E. HOWE, Editor and Pub'r

These proposals to tax every Christmas tree sent out of the state may at first sight appear rather drastic but the action of the legislature is in the right direction. The subject will come in for some vigorous discussion, anyhow, and this will help some. The time is coming and coming soon, too, when even the land-owners who are at present disposed to insist that it is their privilege to do as they please with property to which they hold the deed must see that the community at large has rights which should be considered as well as those of the individual.

The Public's Business

Governor Mead, following in the footsteps of the most of his predecessors, has sent his nominations of certain state officers to the senate in a secret message and the senate has considered and confirmed those nominations in the executive session. The result is that the first nomination of the people of the state of Vermont had of the transaction of this business (which is their business) was when appointments were confirmed, the appointments installed and it was too late even to offer a suggestion for or against any one of the men made the people's servants. The whole affair was conducted as it has been with but one exception for many years past, under the cover of secrecy, and the people were never once taken into confidence by the man they chose to do their own business for.

Now, the Messenger has no fault to find with these appointments because it is glad to see them appointed. It has no criticism to make of Governor Mead's selection of them for appointment for the same reason. But it does protest against the manner of their appointment as it has protested on like occasions for many years and it will continue to protest until the method is changed.

The people elect the governor to make these nominations for them and in their name and behalf. He is the one and only officer of the state government charged with the responsibility of this duty who is elected by all the people; the senators who have a share in confirming his appointments are merely representative of parts of the state and population and are supposed to reflect local sentiment rather than the collective will of the commonwealth. The Messenger insists now, as it has many times before that the people of the state of Vermont have a right to know what men the governor proposes to appoint to the public service in their name before they are confirmed by the senate and it is too late to exercise an influence toward keeping them out of office. This whole business of secrecy and mystery, this whole paraphernalia of Star Chamber method is contrary to the spirit of our American institutions.

It is utterly inconsistent with the genius of our republican form of government that the people should wake up some morning to find certain men in public office whom they did not even know were nominated for it. The governor of Vermont should take the people into his confidence when he sends nominations for these offices to the senate and the people in whose name he is doing this business should know the nature and precise detail of the business he is doing in their name. When the nominations are sent from the executive chamber to the senate they should be published to the state and the people should be given an opportunity to communicate their views to the senators, if they have any to express before the nominations are confirmed.

The Messenger has argued this proposition year after year without success, but it is not discouraged. It takes some comfort from the fact that the plan it proposes is exactly the plan followed by the national government at Washington. When the president of the United States sends his nomination to public office to the senate, those nominations are at the very same time published to the country at large, and all the people are put upon notice as to what the president has done in their name. In which the people have made such a protest against the confirming of some nomination that the senate has rejected it and the president has been obliged to make another choice. A contemporary says in its story of the legislative proceedings: "These appointments were sent to the senate yesterday accompanied by a request from the governor that they be considered in executive session and under a rule were required to lie 24 hours before action was taken. Three of the names sent to the senate were made public this morning long before the senate could take action on them which caused considerable comment in that body. One of the members said that he supposed the reason for the request that the appointments be considered in executive session was to prevent any embarrassment that might arise through the refusal of the senate to confirm any of the names and he considered that the names were going to be made public through the source he had reason to think these were that there was no use in the senate holding up the publication of the journal and taking the other precautions for secrecy if rather in the light of an insult to the senate."

Does the Senate of the United States undertake to shrink its respon-

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SAYS HUSBAND HAS NOT TAKEN A BATH FOR YEARS

One Complaint in Mrs Rhinelander's Divorce Application

HEAD OF FAMOUS FAMILY

Vowed to Expose Shallow Pretensions of the Cream of Society.

Saratoga, N. Y., Nov. 15.—Julia C. Rhinelander has brought suit for separation against William C. Rhinelander, the disinherited son of the late William Rhinelander. She charges that Rhinelander has compelled her to live in squalid surroundings, although he has an income of \$400 a month from the Rhinelander estate. She says that Rhinelander has frequently threatened her life, that he keeps a loaded revolver in the house, that for years he has not taken a bath that he has threatened to leave her for her sister, and that her only income is \$40 a month paid her by a representative of the Rhinelander estate. She asks \$100 a month allowance.

Rhinelander has lived for years as a recluse here. He and his wife have had no associates, and his peculiarities have caused his neighbors to avoid him. When his father died two years ago, leaving a large estate he was almost disinherited. For a time a contest of the will was threatened but it was never brought on. Rhinelander accepted the \$5,000 a year left by his father.

Several years ago he bought a large number of white Arabian horses and attempted to start a breeding farm, but soon tired of the project. He then turned his attention to old furniture and his wife declares that the rooms of their house are now filled with useless pieces of furniture for which he paid large sums of money.

Rhinelander will oppose the separation proceedings. He says that his wife has \$1700 on deposit in a local bank and has been treated well by him. He is about 50 years old.

New York, Nov. 15.—William Copeland Rhinelander, eldest son of the late William Rhinelander, and hereditary head of the famous old New York family of that name, boasted years ago that his ambition in life was to expose what he called "the shallow pretensions of the people who claim to be the cream of society." He declared that he had no sympathy with the so-called "American aristocracy," and told his friends that he would devote his life to proving that at least one Rhinelander could and would live far removed from the sphere in which his relatives moved.

Since that boast Mr. Rhinelander has often appeared in the public prints. The news from Saratoga, where his wife Mrs. Julia Rhinelander, formerly a waitress in a Twenty-third street restaurant has started proceedings for a legal separation caused some society people here to recall his eccentricities.

Soon after he was graduated from Columbia College in 1876, he astonished his friends by marrying Maggie McGinnis, a maid in his father's home. He became estranged from his family and with his allowance of \$100 a week, which his friends said, was to continue only so long as he made his home outside of this city. Two children were born to Rhinelander and this wife.

After a few years in Canada, the Rhinelanders went to Brooklyn where they lived for awhile in a boarding house. One day the young man called at the office of John Drake, his father's lawyer, at 79 Cedar street. He was in Mr. Drake's private office for nearly an hour. A revolver shot was heard and employees found Mr. Drake and Mr. Rhinelander in a desperate struggle. Mr. Drake was wounded and a revolver was in the hands of Rhinelander.

Mr. Drake upon his recovery refused to make a complaint but Rhinelander was arrested on Inspector Byrne's order. He said Mr. Drake had attempted to get his wife to leave him, and that he had forfeited \$200,000 when he married Maggie McGinnis. He declared that he shot Mr. Drake because the lawyer had attacked him first, and that he thought his life was in danger. A commission was appointed to determine whether he was sane. Two members declared him insane, but the third, Edward Patterson, afterward Supreme Court Justice, declared he was sane enough to stand trial. He was finally released without trial.

A few years later he was arrested charged with grand larceny. Samuel Johnston of Albany Park, charged that he had shipped several trunks full of bric-a-brac, after they had been attached for a \$200 doctor's bill. Rhinelander spent several weeks in Monmouth County jail. Then came another short period of obscurity. Then he appeared in Saratoga under the name of William Ralston, bought a farm and settled down to horse breeding.

How he became free from the first Mrs. Rhinelander was not made known, but in December 1894 Rhinelander married Juliet Kathleen Maier a waitress in a Twenty-third street restaurant, at the Little Church Around the Corner. In the legal papers connected with this second matrimony he changed the spelling of his name to Rhinelander. Six years later Rhinelander again tried his experiment of breeding horses. In the same year the first Mrs. Rhinelander was removed by the police from the Graystone Apartments in West Forty-fifth street and was later sent to the Amityville Asylum by order of the supreme court.

When William Rhinelander died a few years ago, leaving an estate valued at several millions, it was found that his son, William C. Rhinelander had been disinherited in 1878 but that his father had later made a codicil leaving him \$5000 a year.

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